

A' 29. The method of claim 26 wherein the tray and container are made from paperboard having a thickness of about 0.015 to about 0.022 in.

30. The method of claim 26 wherein the height of the carton is between about 4.5 in. and about 6.5 in., the width of the carton is between about 8 in. and about 10 in., and the depth of the carton is between about 1.5 in and about 3.0 in.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested for the reasons set forth below.

Election

The invention of Claims 7-9 is elected without traverse.

Drawing Objection

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the reference number 96 as mentioned in the specification at page 11, line 12. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, accompanying this Amendment is a proposed drawing correction, in which reference numeral 96 has been added to FIG. 27 in red.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103 and §112

The replacement of claims 7-9 with claims 19-27 is believed to have obviated the rejections under 35 USC §103 and §112.

Claim 19 recites a method of forming and filling a container with wrapped food products in a manner that reduces pressure on the wrapped food products while also facilitating access to the food products when the container is opened by the consumer. Each

food product comprises an elongated food product, an elongated food delivery system, and an elongated wrap having end seals at opposite ends thereof. Each elongated food delivery system comprising an elongated tray that has sufficient strength and stiffness to withstand compression loads experienced during packaging.

In the method of claim 19, the wrapped food products are inserted simultaneously through the bottom of the container by applying force to all of the wrapped food products simultaneously with a mandrel, thereby urging the wrapped food products longitudinally into the container, with the wrapped food products being arranged so that said mandrel acts directly on each of the delivery systems. That is, loading forces are not transmitted from one of the wrapped food products to another. Also, the wrapped food products are not collectively supported in a protective inner casing as in the prior art. (See, e.g., inner casing 23 in Neusbaum.) Forces are transmitted to each of the delivery systems directly by the mandrel.

Although each tray has notched side walls to facilitate dispensing of the food products, the notches extend only partially through the side walls. This leaves the lower portions of the sidewalls uninterrupted, which contributes to the strength and stiffness of the tray, and particularly to its ability to withstand longitudinal compression loads such as those experienced during filling of the container. For the same reason, recesses to facilitate handling are provided in the upper edge of each side wall. Claim 19 also recites that the food products are arranged so that each of the wrapped food products will have an end seal readily accessible without restriction from the top of the container when the container is opened.

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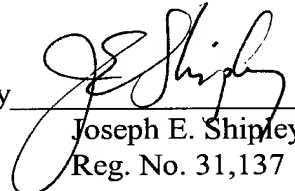
PATENT
APPLICATION

It is believed that the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 19.

For the reasons set forth above, the application is believed to be allowable.
Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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